position of pendency was reviewed and recommendations were made to provide additional infrastructure, staff, funds etc. Government also reviews the position of pendency of cases in consumer courts from time to time.

(c) The main factors responsible for mounting cases in consumer courts are frequent adjournments and irregular attendance particularly in the District Fora.

(d) Government has already amended the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 empowering the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up additional District Fora in a District, depending upon the workload. The responsibility, however, of setting up of the additional District Fora lies with the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. The Central Government has also agreed to give one time financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territories to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts.

Review of infrastructure of consumer courts

3043. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an internal review of Government it has been found that the Consumer Courts' infrastructure is tottering and is bogged down by several malaises;

(b) if so, the reasons for Consumer Courts being bogged down with massive arrears; and

(c) the measures which Government propose to take at the Central level to ensure the smooth functioning of Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The main factors responsible for the steep rise in pendency of cases in consumer courts are frequent adjournments and irregular attendance particularly in District Fora. In order to expedite disposal of cases, many State Governments are converting part time district Fora into full time. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also provides for setting up of additional District Fora depending upon the workload. However, the responsibility of setting up of additional District Fora lies solely with the State Governments. Central Government has also been requesting all the States and Union Territories to monitor pendency in Consumer Courts and ensure expeditious disposal of pending cases. Central Government has also agreed to provide one time financial assistance to all the States and Union Territories for strengthening infrastructure of Consumer Courts to ensure quick disposal of cases.

Permission to NDDA for import of edible oil

3044. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundnut oil "Dhara" in Delhi and elsewhere in the country was ruling at Rupees 54/- per kilogram as against Rupees 48/- per kilogram in the last year;

(b) if so, what is the present demand-supply gap of edible oils indicating the quantity imported during 1995-96 as against 1994-95 so far indicating the price thereof;

(c) which are the edible oils put on the Open General Licence list and which are not freely importable; and